

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 COME-00 TRSE-00

CIEP-01 FEA-01 SAM-01 AGR-05 SIL-01 LAB-04 AF-06 /106 W

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R 061849Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9232

USMISSION USUN

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 292

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, HA, XF

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE GOH DIPLOMATIC SHIFT TOWARD ARABS

1. WE BELIEVE THERE IS GROWING EVIDENCE THAT PRESIDENT DUVALIER MAY BE COMTEMPLATING A SIGNIFICANT DIPLOMATIC SHIFT IN FAVOR OF THE ARAB VIEWPOINT ON MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS. WHILE IT IS YET UNPROVEN THAT THE ARAB LEAGUE WILL LOAN HAITI \$5 MILLION, AS CLAIMED BY THE ESRAELI AMBASSADOR (PAUP A-3 OF JAN 10, 1975), AND DUVALIER SEEMINGLY REBUFFED RECENT PRO-ARAB INITIATIVEW BY LOCAL ARAB RESIDENTS (PAUP A-187 OF DEC 13, 1974), OTHER EVIDENCE INDICATES THAT DUVALIER MAY BE REEVALUATING HIS CLOSE TIES WITH ISRAEL.

2. FIRST, THE GOH PERMITTED THE SPATE OF PRO-ARAB NEWS AND EDITORIALIZING LATE LAST YEAR BY A LOCAL NEWSPAPER, LE MATIN, WHICH BLUNTLY POINTED TO THE POTENTIAL LARGESSE THAT THE OIL-  
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RICH ARAB COUNTRIES COULD PROVIDE HAITI AS WELL AS OTHER LDC'S.

LE MATIN CALLED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ARAB EMBASSIES IN PORT-AU-PRINCE; CURRENTLY ONLY EGYPT AND LEBANON AMONG ALL ARAB STATES HAVE AMBASSADORS ACCREDITED TO THE GOH, AND THEY RESIDE IN CARACAS.

3. SECOND, WHILE HAITI'S CONTINUED LOYALTY TO ISRAEL HAS BEEN TANGIBLY REWARDED BY ISRAEL (TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO AGRICULTURE, PLANNING OF TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR SCHOOL LEAVERS, RURAL HEALTH PLANNING, COOPERATION WITH THE OAS IN SETTING UP A PILOT ARTISANAL CENTER, AND A PROVISION SCHOLARSHIPS FOR LABOR TRAINING), IT FAILED TO REALIZE A KEY GOH EXPECTATION. THAT EXPECTATION WAS THAT ISRAEL'S SUPPORTERS IN THE U.S. CONGRESS WOULD REWARD HAITI WITH GENEROUS U.S. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE. WHILE THIS EXPECTATION WAS NAIVE, SOME SOURCES INSIST THAT YOUNG PRESIDENT DUVALIER PLACED GREAT FAITH IN IT. IN ANY EVENT THE GOH APPARENTLY HAS NOT PERCEIVED ANY HELP BEING GIVEN HAITI BY WHAT IT BELIEVES TO BE THE POWERFUL ISRAEL LOBBY IN CONGRESS.

4. THIRD, IN 1974 HAITI BROKE OUT OF ITS TRADITIONAL ISOLATION BY JOINING TWO KEY ECONOMIC GROUPINGS, CARICOM AND IBA, AN X BY SEEKING OR CONSIDERING MEMBERSHIP IN OTHER PRODUCER CARTELS. IT ALSO HOPES BELATEDLY TO BECOME AN "ASSOCIABLE" WITH THE EC, ALBEIT WITHOUT MUCH SUCCESS FO FAR. THESE MOVES APPARENTLY HAVE SOLIDIFIED DUVALIER'S TENDENCY TO IDENTIFY WITH THIRD WORLD CAUSES, OF WHICH "JUSTICE FOR PALESTINIANS" IS ONE. FOR ECONOMIC REASONS, HAITI IS INCREASINGLY TAKING FOREIGN POLICY CUES OF SUCH NATIONS AS JAMAICA, GUYANA, VENEZUELA, AND EVEN GUINEA-CONAKRY.

5. FOURTH, HAITI'S ATTEMPTS TO TAP NON-ARAB SOURCES OF OIL-BASED ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IN 1974 VIA IRAN AND VENEZUELA SO FAR HAVE PRODUCED NOTHING TANGIBLE. BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE SIGNALLED THEIR INTENTIONS TO STUDY PROPOSED VENTURES IN HAITI IN DEPTH BEFORE MAKING COMMITMENTS. MOREOVER, IRAN ITSELF APPEARS TO BE GROWING CLOSER TO THE ARABS.

6. ACTION REQUESTED - WE WOULD APPRICIATE DEPARTMENT'S AND USUN'S VIEWS AS TO WHETHER GOH PERFORMANCE ON MIDDLE EAST ISSUES AT 19TH UNGA, REFLECTS IMMINENT HAITIAN TILT TOWARD THE ARABS.  
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